



MS ISSUE FEE  
PATENT  
4450-0199P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Daniel Knapp, et al. Conf.: 5291  
Appl. No.: 10/002,472 ✓ Group: 2839  
Filed: November 2, 2001 Examiner: C. PRASAD  
For: SYSTEM AND MANAGING SLACK IN FIBER OPTIC  
CABLES CONNECTED TO A CIRCUIT BOARD

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

**MS ISSUE FEE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 27, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the reasons for allowance have been noted and the following comments are respectfully submitted in the above-identified application.

**Remarks**

Claims 4, 6-9, 13, 14, and 16-21 remain pending and stand allowed in the present application. The Examiner, in his Statement of Reasons for Allowance, indicates that claims 4, 6-9, 14, and 17-21 are allowed because they depend on claims 16 and 19. Further, in page 5 of the Office Action of October 16, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 13 and 16 was allowable because:

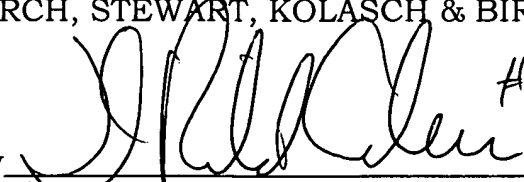
A tensioning assembly for optical fibers using a leaf spring was not found in the prior art.

Initially, while Applicants agree that each of the pending claims define over the prior art of record, Applicants wish to emphasize that it is each claim, taken as a whole, which defines the claimed invention. Furthermore, the Examiner's statement apparently paraphrases a limitation of independent claims 13 and 16. Therefore, in view of the different language recited in independent claims 13 and 16, Applicants submit that the Examiner's statement should not in any way unduly limit the scope of any of the pending claims, which should be interpreted in light of the actual language used therein.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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